

# GI Bandit

## Slain in

**OCT 18 1966**

## Albany Bar

ALBANY — A 22-year-old Army private was fatally wounded yesterday morning by a tavern owner he had just robbed.

Two accomplices were captured during a frenzied getaway attempt following the holdup at the M & L tavern at 979 San Pablo Ave.

Killed was Finley Mitchell Walker, who was stationed at the San Francisco Presidio. Held the San Francisco Presidio. Charged with armed robbery were Andrew Leroy Flowers, 25, of 724 10th St., and Eddie Jiles Ballard, 23, of 849 19th St., both Oakland.

Bar owner Joseph P. Casella, 63, said one of the gunman entered the tavern about 12:30 a.m., looked around and walked out.

A few minutes later all three men walked in, brandished pistols and ordered Casella and six patrons to empty their pockets and lie face down on the floor.

As Flowers was emptying the contents of the safe behind the bar into a briefcase, a passerby glanced into the saloon, saw the robbery in progress and called police.

Albany officers called for help from El Cerrito and Berkeley and within minutes four carloads of men armed with shotguns had surrounded the tavern.

The three started to leave, saw the armed officers at the front and rear entrances, panicked and began running through the building searching for a way out.

Casella took advantage of the confusion. He leaped to his feet,

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# Albany Bar

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ran to his living quarters in the rear of the bar and snatched up his .22 caliber target pistol.

As he emerged from his room, he saw Walker run out of the ladies room. He shot him in the chest. Casella herded the wounded soldier into the bar. "Now you lie on the floor," he said.

When police entered the bar they found Flowers standing near the front door. He surrendered meekly, as did Ballard. Walker died a short time later.

# Rites Set for Joseph P. Casella, 72

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. for Joseph Paul Casella, 72, owner of the M and L Tavern at 979 San Pablo Ave., Albany for 20 years.

Mr. Casella died Monday.

Services will be held in the Drawing Room Chapel of the Ellis-Olson Mortuary, 727 San Pablo Ave., Albany, to be followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the St. Ambrose Church, Cornell Avenue and Gilman Street, Berkeley at 10 a.m.

Mr. Casella was a native of Italy and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and Legion of the Moose.

He was also a member of the Tavern Owners' Association and the Bartenders Union, Local No. 52 of Oakland.

He is survived by his wife, Exie; two daughters, Mrs. Rosemarie L. Gibson of Sebastopol and Deanna C. Bond of Fair Oaks; and three sisters, Harriet Pinion of Richmond, Angela Williams of San Francisco and Edith Rash of Healdsburg.

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<p>*26*CASELLA, Exie (Luckey), in San Leandro, January 28, 1978; loving wife of the late Joseph Paul Caselli; Casella; also survived by many friends. A native of Somerset, Ky. A member of the Albany Chapter No. 555MO Order of the Eastern Star, Albany Chapter No. 52 Loytial Order of Moose and owner of the M&amp;L Tavern in A M. &amp; L. A Albany, Ca.</p> <p>Funeral services Thursday, February 2, 1978 at 11:30 a.m. conducted by Dr. Fred Stripp. Committal services St. Joseph's Cemetery, San Pablo. Memorials in her memory to the Alameda County Cancer Society will be appreciated. 41 ELLIS-OLSON Mortuary 727 San Pablo Ave. Albanyac 525-0246ac</p> <p>/e</p>								
<p><b>FUNERAL COPY</b></p>								
REMEMBER /e								
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Oakland Tribune

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